GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2661
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JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided employment opportunities for the economic upliftment of women in rural and tribal areas under the various schemes of micro, small and medium enterprises sector including Prime Minister`s Rozgar Yojana (PMRY);

(b) if so, the total employment generated for women during each of the last three and the current year, sector-wise and State- wise;

(c) the incentives provided and targets fixed by the Government for the new industrial units for creating job opportunities in favour of women in rural and tribal areas during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the target set for setting up of such new units during the last three years, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF MICRO,SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES(SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of estimated employment opportunities generated for women in the khadi and under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in the village industry sector through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, are given at Annex. I. Similarly, State/UT-wise details of estimated employment generated for women under Prime Minister`s Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in both the rural and urban areas during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, are given at Annex. II. No separate data is being maintained for urban/rural/tribal areas.

From 2008-09, the shemes of REGP and PMRY have been discontinued and have been replaced by a new scheme called Prime Minister`s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for creation of additional employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises. The Scheme is being implemented through the KVIC, as the single nodal agency at the national level. At the State/Union Territories level, the scheme is implemented through field offices of KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards(KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) and Banks. Under this Programme, entrepreneurs can establish micro enterprises by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC/ KVIBs of States & Union Territories/ DICs and loans from implementing public sector scheduled commercial Banks, selected regional rural Banks and co-operative Banks, etc., for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 10 lakh each in the service/business sector and up to Rs.25 lakh each in the manufacturing sector. Target for helping establish 61,697 projects and generation of estimated 6,16,937 additional employment opportunities during 2008-09 has been set under PMEGP, and implementing agencies have been advised by KVIC to earmark 30 per cent of the target for women entrepreneurs.

The figures of actual employment generated/to be generated during 2008-09 will become available only after the year is over and the data are compiled.

(c) & (d): PMRY envisages age relaxation for women beneficiaries. Scheme prescribed age limit of 18-45 years for weaker section and women beneficiaries against age limit of 18-35 years for general candidates. No gender specific targets used to be fixed under PMRY. State/Union Territory (UT) - wise details of self- employment ventures set up under PMRY by women entrepreneurs during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given at Annex. II.

Under REGP, special consideration was given to women by providing the margin money at the rate of 30 per cent of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakh (and 10 per cent of the project cost over and above Rs.10 lakh upto Rs. 25 lakh) as against 25 per cent in the case of entrepreneurs belonging to general category, in conjunction with bank credit. In addition, own contribution from entrepreneurs belonging to women and ex-servicemen categories, was kept at 5 per cent of the project cost as against 10 per cent for beneficiaries or entrepreneurs belonging to general category. The State-wise details of margin money disbursed and number of village industry units established by women entrepreneurs during 2005-06,2006-07 and 2007-08 are given at Annex. III.

Under PMEGP also, subsidy levels for prospective women entrepreneurs have been kept at higher levels as an incentive. Accordingly, margin money (subsidy) at enhanced rates is admissible to the women entrepreneurs [@ 25 per cent of project cost in urban areas and @35 per cent of project cost in rural areas] in comparison to that admissible to male entrepreneurs in the general category [@ 15 per cent of project cost in urban areas and @25 per cent of project cost in rural areas]. Moreover, the rate of own contribution in case of women entrepreneurs is only 5 per cent of the project cost as against 10 per cent of project cost in respect of general category entrepreneurs.